

Veryan

Church of England Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

‘In our school our Christian vision shapes all we do’

Supporting one another in learning and life.

Compassion Wisdom Perseverance

‘Collective Worship in a Church school should enable every child and adult to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate for wisdom, knowledge and skills, hope and aspiration, dignity and respect, and developing community and understanding of living well together.

Policy Statement

Collective worship is central to the life of our school and is a place for exploring our school’s vision. It is well planned and of a high quality where the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

For Christians in Church, worship is about honouring God and responding to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Our school is not a Church but is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. At our school, collective worship takes account of the varied circumstances of staff and pupils.

At Veryan School collective worship aims to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive. We promote our Anglican traditions of worship.

Through Collective Worship we offer:

- a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story
- an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity
- opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given.
- pupils time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service



- time for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian (*and other faiths*¹) calendar
- time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually.²

Legal Requirements

There must be a daily act of collective worship. As a church school collective worship is in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. As a church school we encourage all who enrol their children here to consider the importance which we attach to collective worship.

The right of withdrawal

Parents do have the right, according to the 1944 and 1988 Education Acts to withdraw their children from collective worship. Parents are then invited to discuss their concerns with the Head of School before making such a decision.

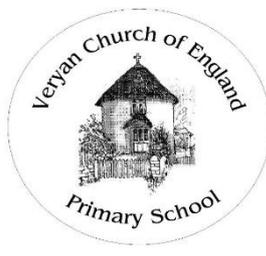
Guiding Principles

Collective worship at Veryan School aims to:

- Have a pivotal place in the life of the school.
- Support pupils and adults in their spiritual growth
- Be the central vehicle by which the school's vision is unpacked and explored so that the whole school community is challenged and engaged with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.
- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and/or respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- Support pupils in the development of their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief
- Provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, understanding of diverse liturgical traditions, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality whilst contributing to the communal journey.
- Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year.

¹ Collective Worship in a CofE school must be in alignment with the religious foundation of the school (Christian), however there is a responsibility for schools in all contexts to mark, respond and learn from the festivals of other faiths. This may be designated as a separate act, not to be conflated with collective worship.

² "To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God and to devote the will to the purpose of God". William Temple (1881-1894)



- Explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introduce them to some well know Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before mealtimes and home time.
- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship with the support and shared engagement of the local church community. Pupils will be at the centre of this process taking on increasingly independent roles in planning and leading worship.
- Ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to make sure pupils understand the work of Christians and the church locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus.

Development of the policy and links to other policies and documentation

This policy was developed from the Church of England model. Staff and school monitoring council members were consulted. Church of England resources and information from the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document was used to ensure the schools meets the church schools' requirements.

We ensure that the principles for collective worship are reflected and applied in our policies and practice including those that are concerned with:

- Pupils' personal development and wellbeing
- SMSC and PSHE
- Staff recruitment, retention and professional development
- Care, guidance and support
- Behaviour management
- Working in partnership with parents and carers
- Working with the wider community

We also ensure that information about collective worship is included on the school website.

How Collective worship is organised

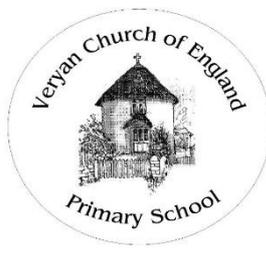
Leadership

Worship is led by: the head of school, a member of staff, a pupil or small group of pupils, a whole class, a member of the clergy or local church, individual visitors or teams e.g. Open the Book

Support and guidance are given to visitors leading worship.

Planning

- The school RE and collective worship coordinator is responsible for the collective worship plan and timetable



- All members of the school community, including children are equipped to plan and lead acts of worship
- Worship reflects Christian celebrations and the cycle of the Church year
- The school vision and Christian values are identified, expressed and celebrated through collective worship
- A range and variety of materials used, including: websites, artefacts, stories, drama scripts, artwork, music, songs, film clips, focal points e.g. a picture or candle
- Opportunities are provided for children and adults to explore faith in today's world
- Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God is explored
- Spiritual growth through prayer, stillness and reflection is nurtured

Organisation

Collective worship is organised:

- For different groupings - whole school/class worship
- For different settings and places for worship
- To make the worship space special
- Creating an atmosphere for worship using: The liturgical colours of the seasons of the Church Year; Christian signs and symbols, candles, music, a focal point; ritual and liturgical responses; how the children are seated; an outdoor classroom

Roles and Responsibilities

Each member of the school community upholds the principles and actions of this policy:

- School Monitoring Council
- The Head of School
- Clergy and church partners
- Teaching and support staff
- Pupils
- Parents and carers
- Visitors

Staff development and training

We ensure that all staff, including support staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams.

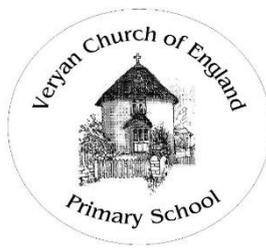
Monitoring and evaluation

Collective worship plans and monitoring is kept in the collective worship folder.

Monitoring and evaluating the impact of collective worship involves children, staff, and foundation school monitoring council (SMC) members.

Monitoring and evaluation of worship has led to its strengthening and development over time.

Diocesan colleagues may also make a contribution to this process.



This policy is reviewed every three years and it is the role of the coordinator to discuss its effectiveness with the designated and teaching colleagues.

Disseminating the policy

We ensure that this policy is known to all staff and SMC, parents and carers and, as appropriate, to all pupils. This policy is available on our school website.

Date of last review: March 2021

Head of School signed:

Caroline Jarrett

Date: 19.3.21

Chair of SMC signed:

Andrew Nicholson

Date: 29/3/21